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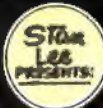
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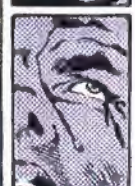
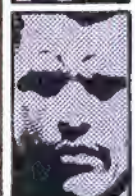
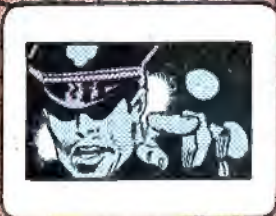
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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN





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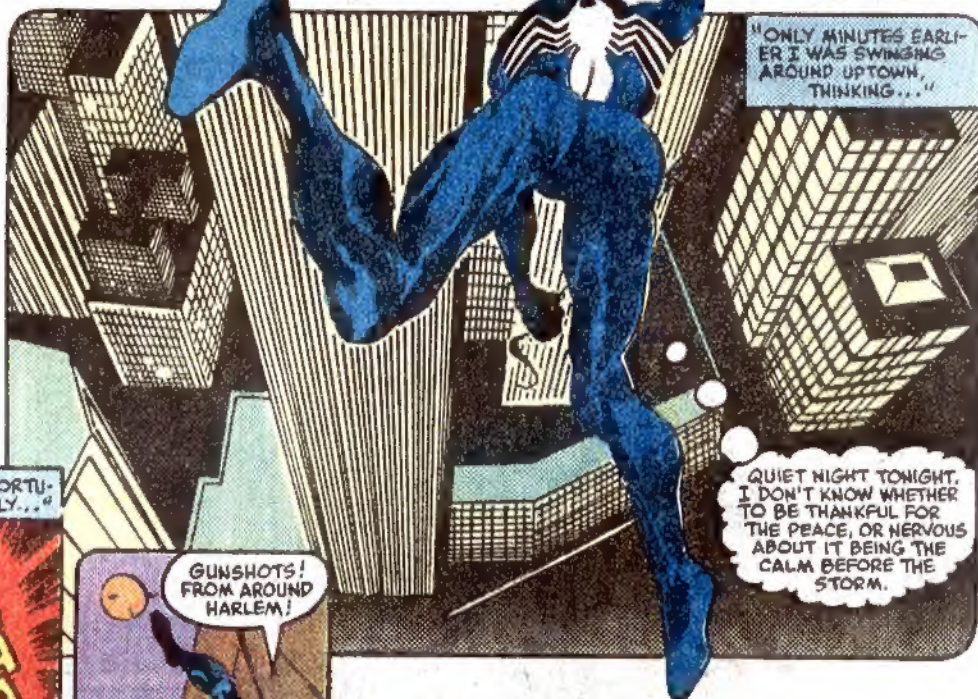
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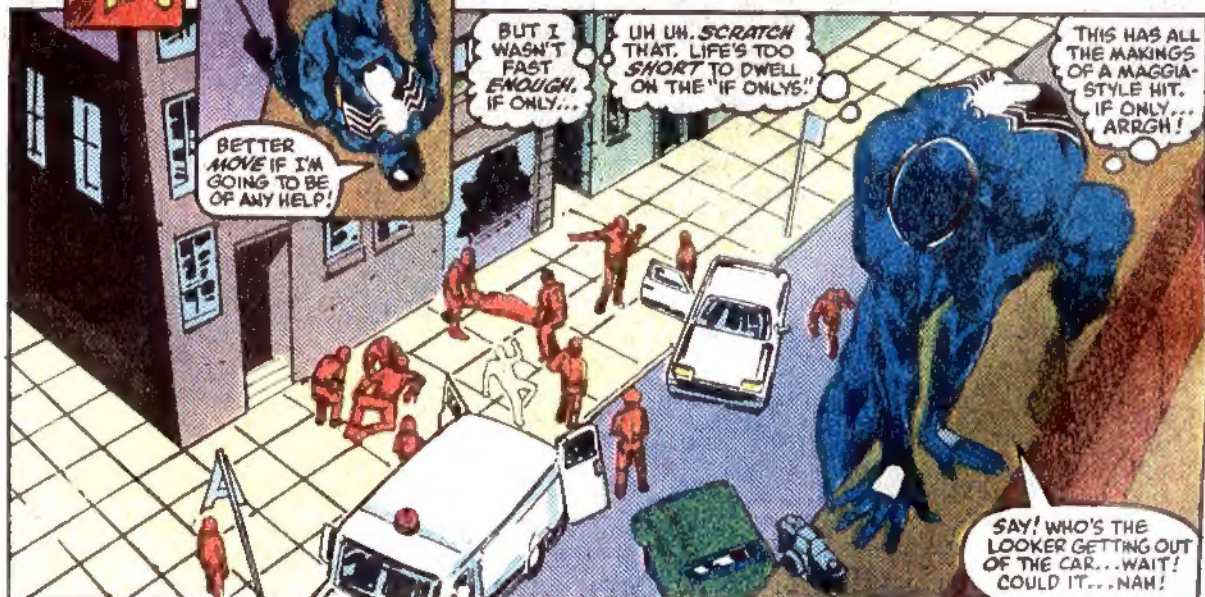
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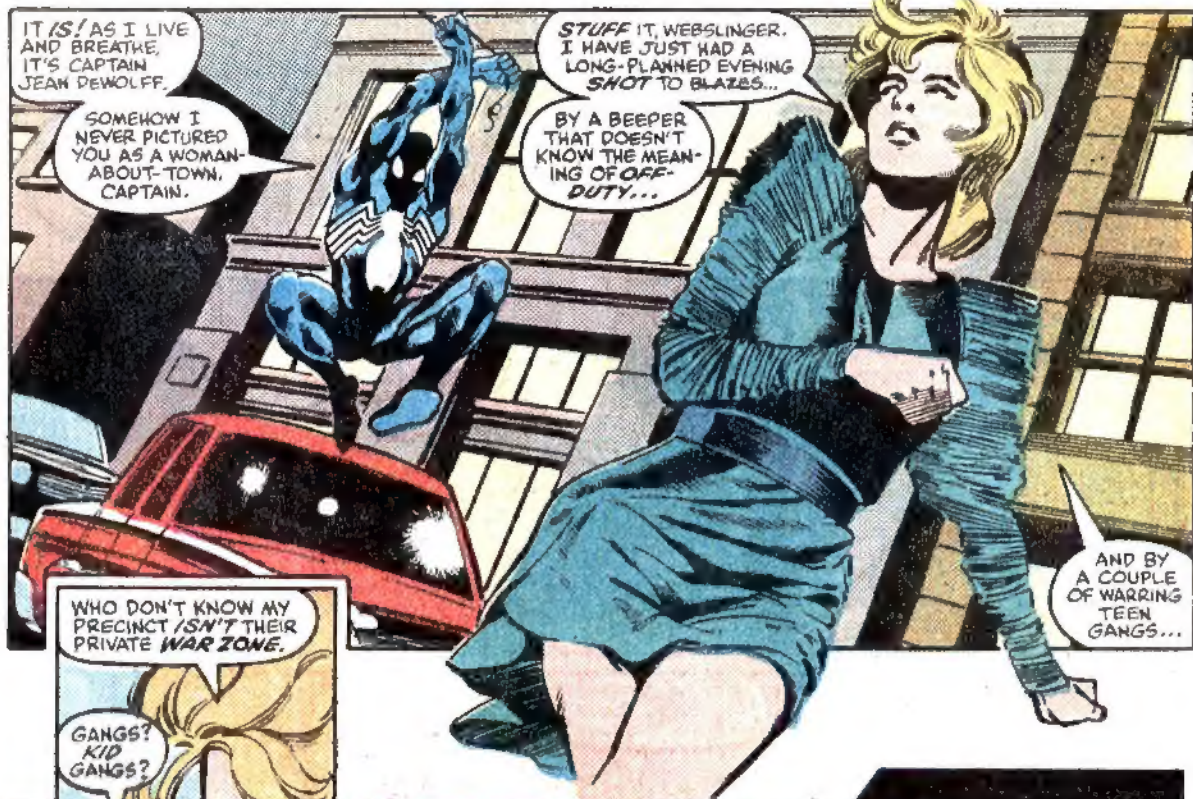
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"UNFORTU-
NATELY..."

**B
L
A
A
M!**





IT IS! AS I LIVE
AND BREATHE,
IT'S CAPTAIN
JEAN DEWOLFF.

SOMEHOW I
NEVER PICTURED
YOU AS A WOMAN-
ABOUT-TOWN,
CAPTAIN.

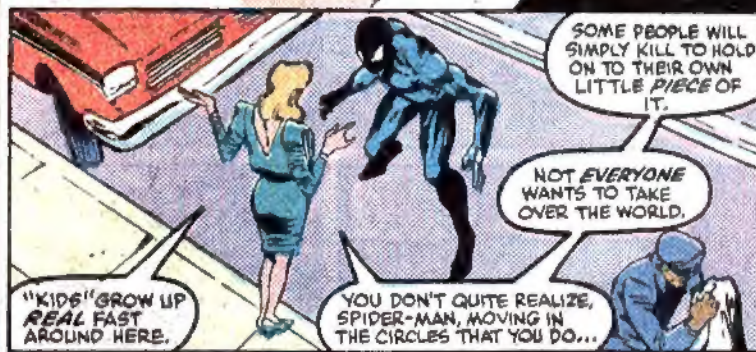
STUFF IT, WEBSLINGER.
I HAVE JUST HAD A
LONG-PLANNED EVENING
SHOT TO BLAZES...

BY A BEEPER
THAT DOESN'T
KNOW THE MEAN-
ING OF OFF-
DUTY...

AND BY
A COUPLE
OF WARRING
TEEN
GANGS...

WHO DON'T KNOW MY
PRECINCT /S/N'T THEIR
PRIVATE *WAR ZONE*.

GANGS?
KID
GANGS?



SOME PEOPLE WILL
SIMPLY KILL TO HOLD
ON TO THEIR OWN
LITTLE *PIECE* OF
IT.

NOT *EVERYONE*
WANTS TO TAKE
OVER THE WORLD.

"KIDS" GROW UP
REAL FAST
AROUND HERE.

YOU DON'T QUITE REALIZE,
SPIDER-MAN, MOVING IN
THE CIRCLES THAT YOU DO...

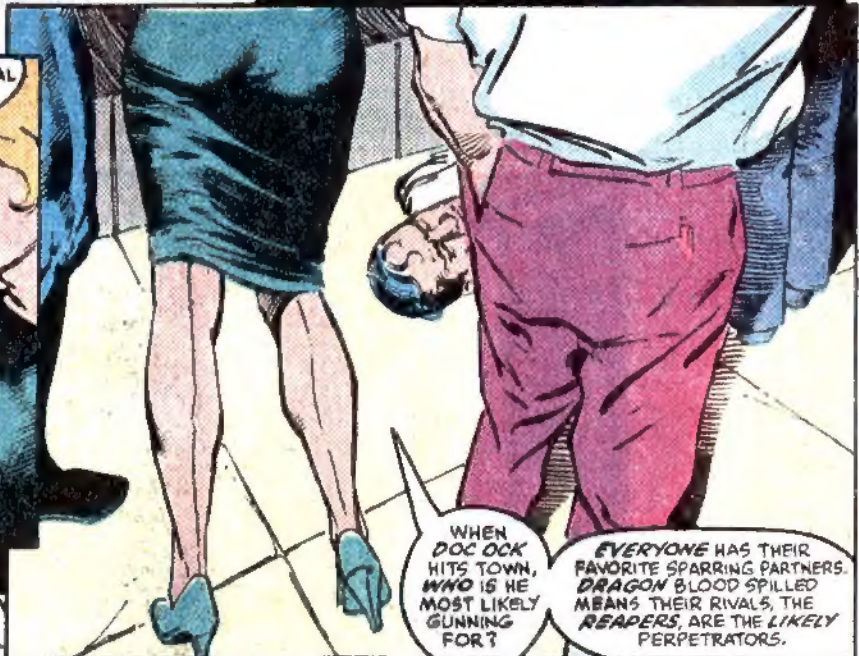


CAPTAIN? SEVERAL
VICTIMS WORE
THESE.

DRAGON
COLORS? THAT
MEANS THE
REAPERS WERE
THE PERPS!

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

LET ME
PUT IT IN
TERMS YOU'LL
UNDERSTAND...



WHEN
DOC OCK
HITS TOWN,
WHO IS HE
MOST LIKELY
GUNNING
FOR?

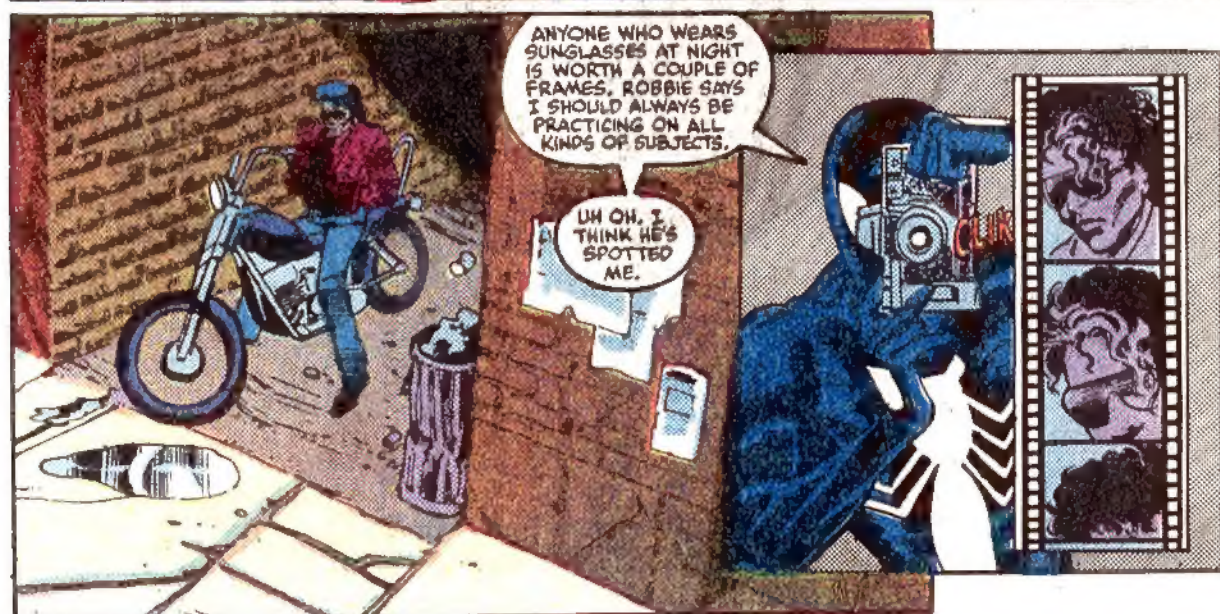
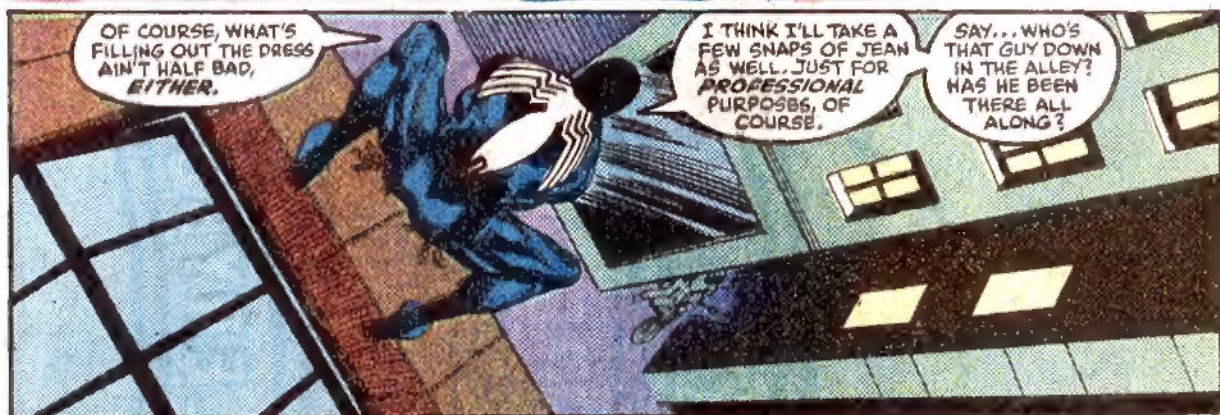
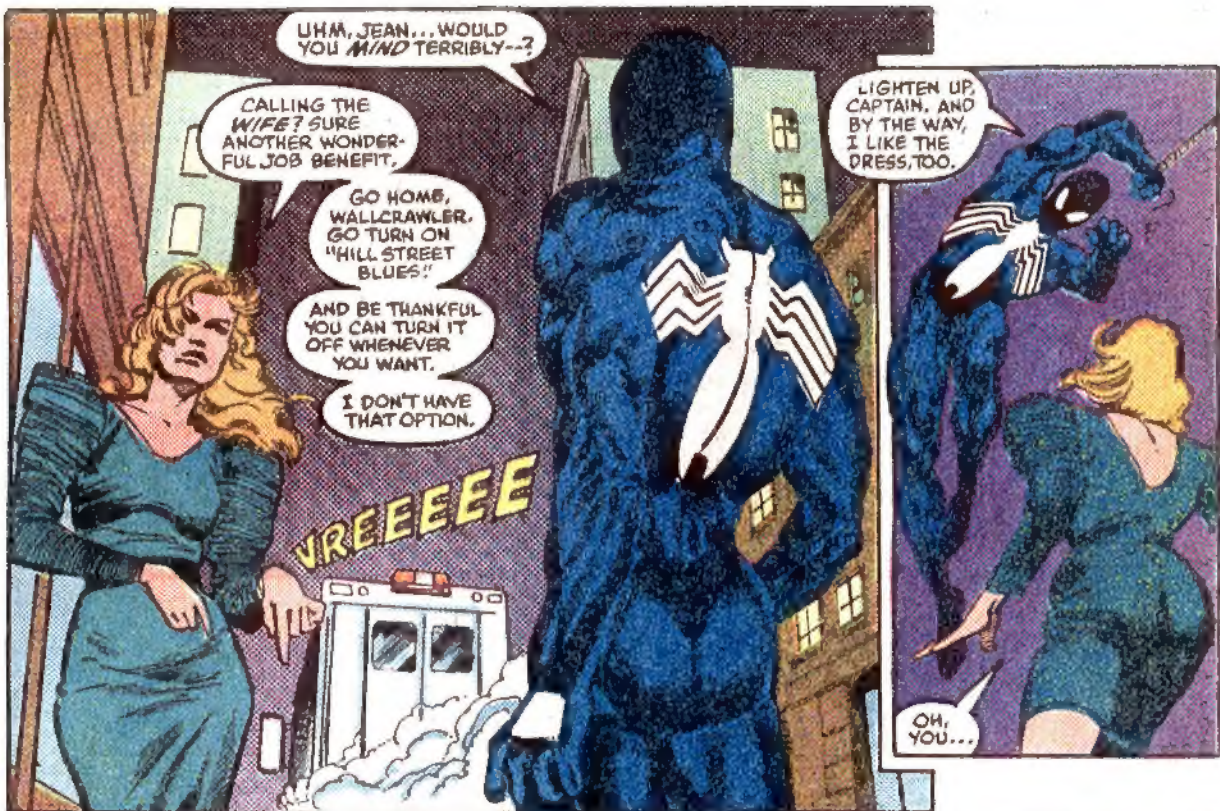
EVERYONE HAS THEIR
FAVORITE SPARRING PARTNERS.
DRAGON BLOOD SPILLED
MEANS THEIR RIVALS, THE
REAPERS, ARE THE *LIKELY*
PERPETRATORS.



VINCE DIFELO, MY NAME'S ON THE RESTAURANT. THEY SHOT MY PLACE UP PRETTY GOOD.

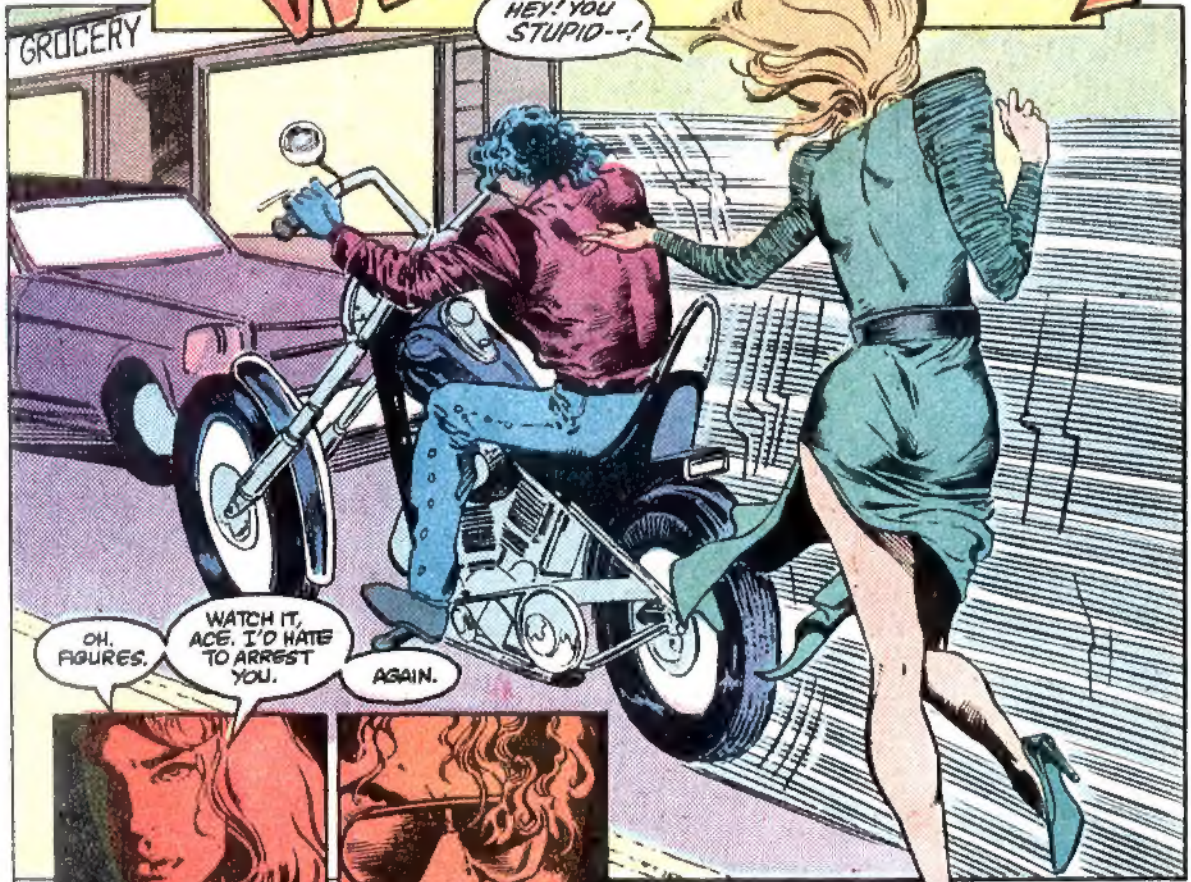
ME, I GOT IN THE WAY OF A COUPLE OF ROUNDS. DON'T WORRY, THOUGH.







VVVROOOOMMM



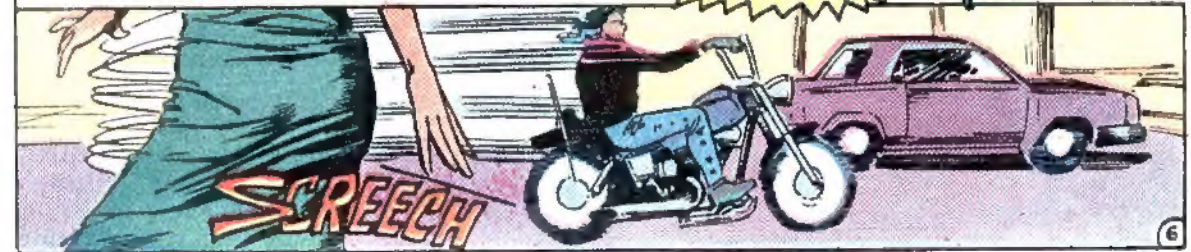
HEY! YOU STUPID--!

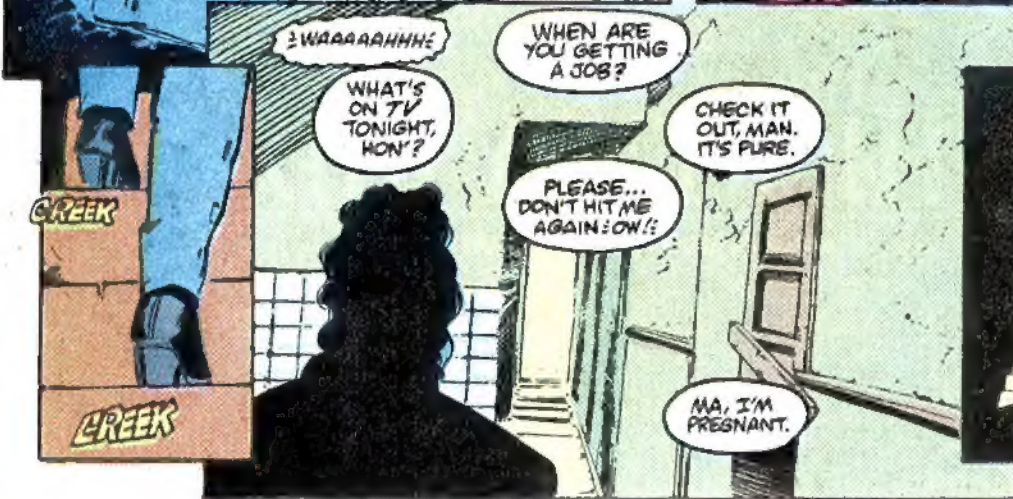
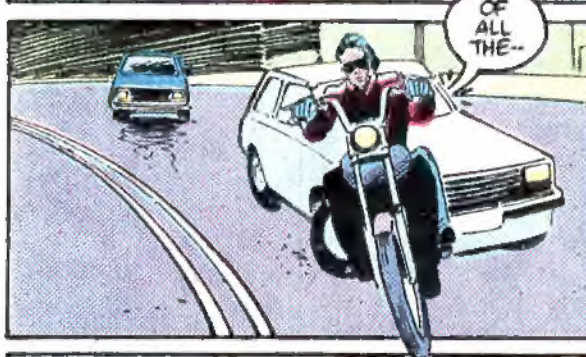
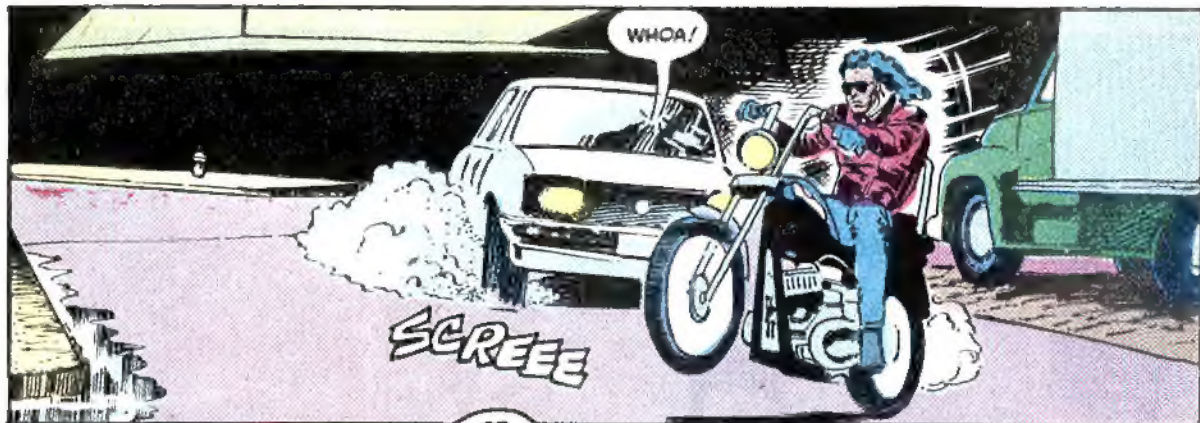
OH, FIGURES.
WATCH IT, ACE. I'D HATE TO ARREST YOU.

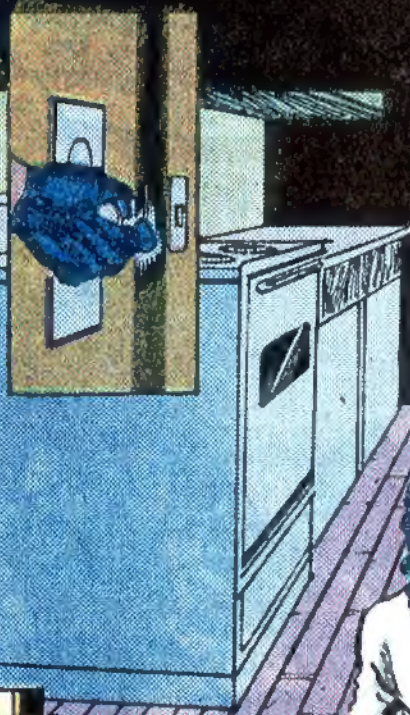
AGAIN.



AND WHERE'S YOUR HELMET?!







"DIDN'T YOU KNOW WATER WOULD BE THE END OF ME? ASKED THE WITCH, IN A WAILING, DESPAIRING VOICE."

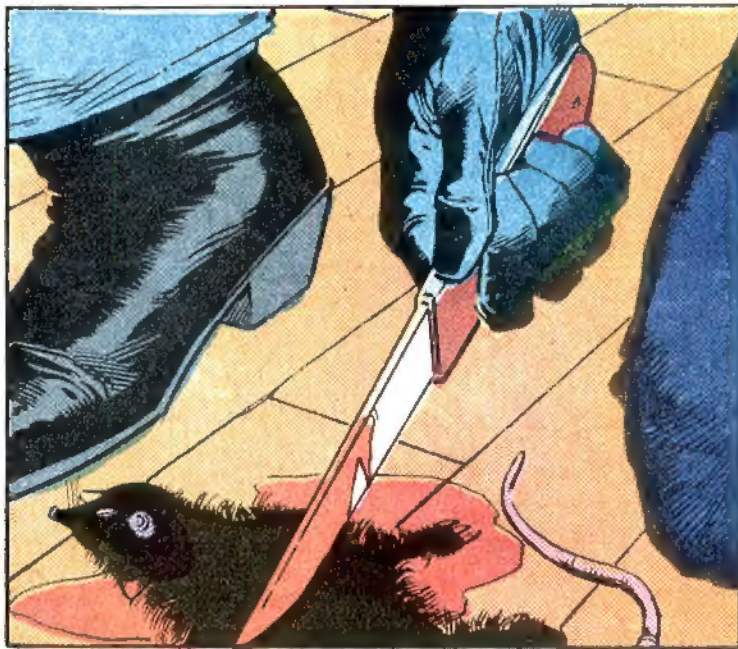
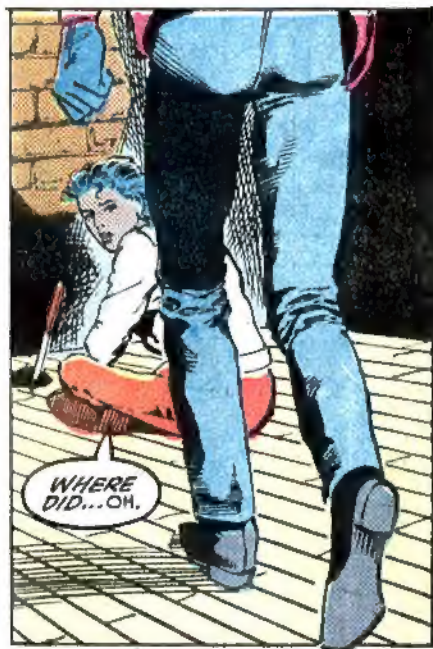
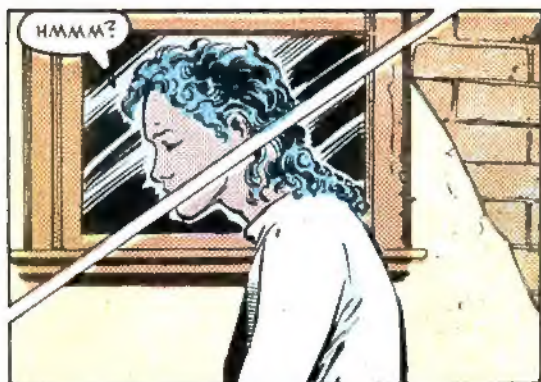
"OF COURSE NOT! ANSWERED DOROTHY; 'HOW SHOULD I?'"

"WELL, IN A FEW MINUTES I SHALL BE ALL MELTED, AND YOU WILL HAVE THE CASTLE TO YOURSELF..."



"I NEVER THOUGHT A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO MELT ME AND END MY WICKED DEEDS."

"LOOK OUT-- HERE I GO!"



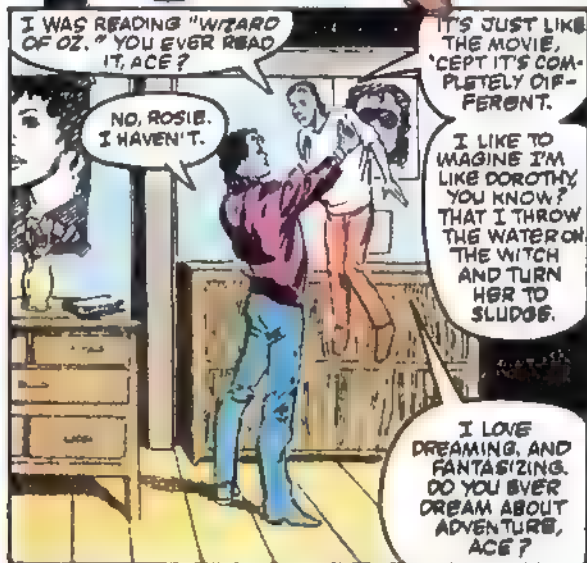


C'MON, BIG BROTHER YOU'RE ALWAYS HIDING BEHIND THOSE SHADES.

LIGHTEN UP A LITTLE, OKAY?



OKAY.



I WAS READING "WIZARD OF OZ." YOU EVER READ IT, ACE?

NO, ROSIE. I HAVEN'T.

IT'S JUST LIKE THE MOVIE, 'CEPT IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.

I LIKE TO IMAGINE I'M LIKE DOROTHY, YOU KNOW? THAT I THROW THE WATER ON THE WITCH AND TURN HER TO SLUDGE.

I LOVE DREAMING, AND FANTASIZING. DO YOU EVER DREAM ABOUT ADVENTURE, ACE?



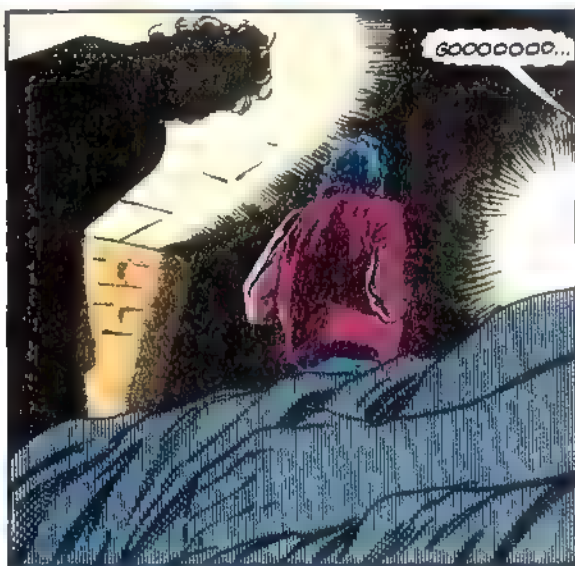
SON?



OOOOH. NOW YOU'RE HIDING AGAIN.

ACE... DO YOU EVER DREAM?







ANSWER THE QUESTION
ANSWER THE QUESTION
ANSWER

THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON...

TYPICAL FARMER.
WEAR A RAINCOAT
BECAUSE IT LOOKS
LIKE RAIN



DAILY BUGLE

AND IT
TURNS SUNNY
TODAY
JULY 4TH 1920

SHOULDN'T
ANSWER IT I
THINK

I BETTER HEAD
UPSTAIRS AND
FIND OUT IF ROBBIE
HAS A MESSAGE
AT THE PHOTOS
I LEFT ON HIS DESK
THIS MORNING,

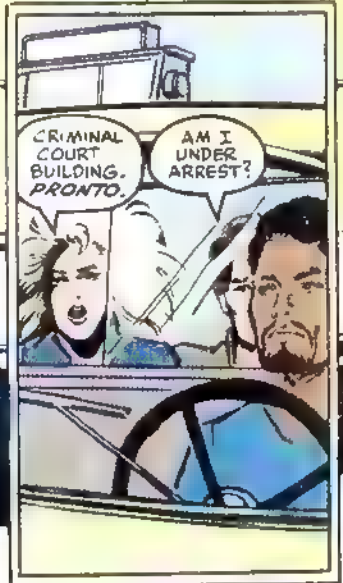
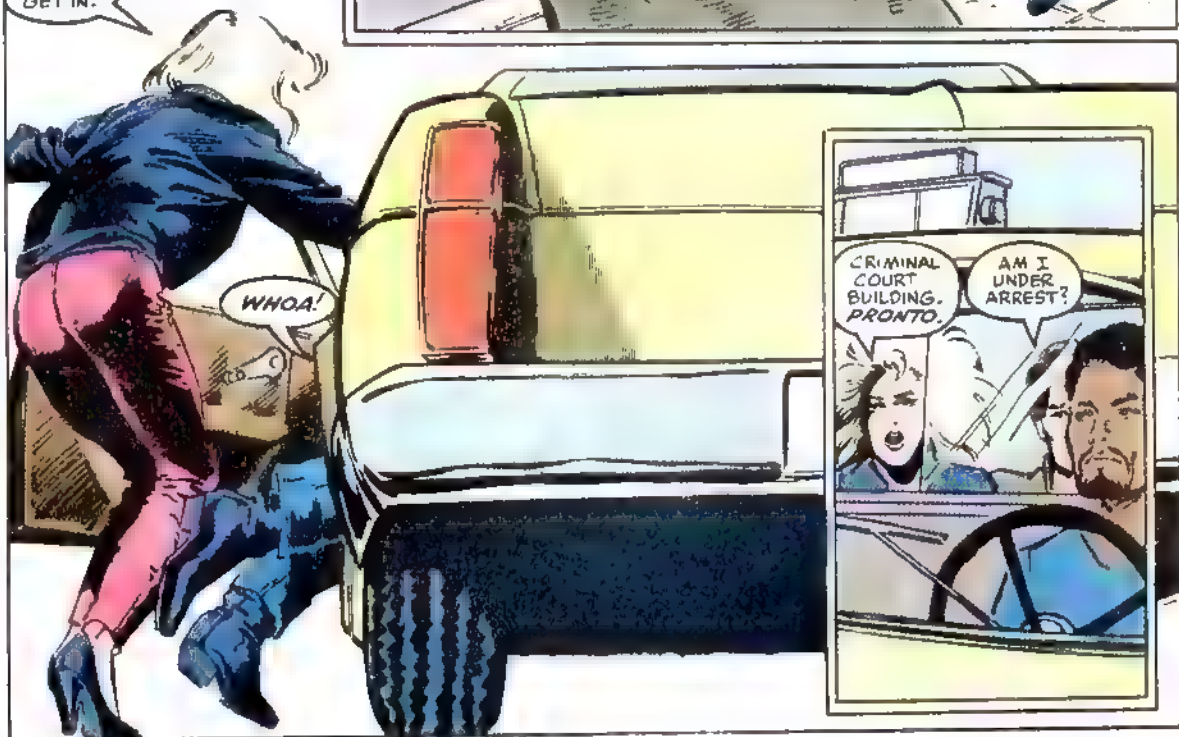
I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
CRIMINAL MINDS
IS A LOT OF
FOR ME

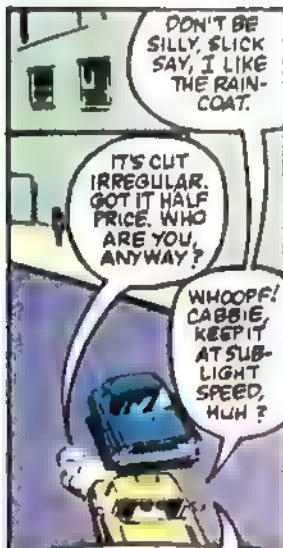


SUDDENLY BURSTING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR OF THE BUGLE BUILDING COMES...



GREAT! GET IN.





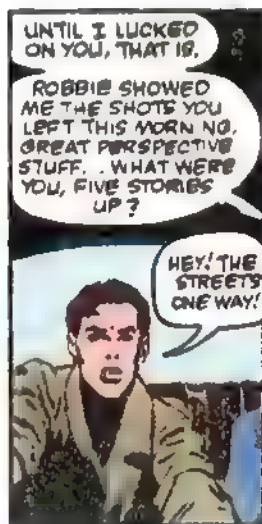
DON'T BE SILLY, SLICK SAY, I LIKE THE RAIN-COAT.

IT'S CUT IRREGULAR. GOT IT HALF PRICE. WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

WHOOFF! CABBIE, KEEP IT AT SUB-LIGHT SPEED, MUH?

I'M JOY MERCADO. JUST JOINED THE BULGE. I LET THEM STEAL ME FROM THE TIMES.

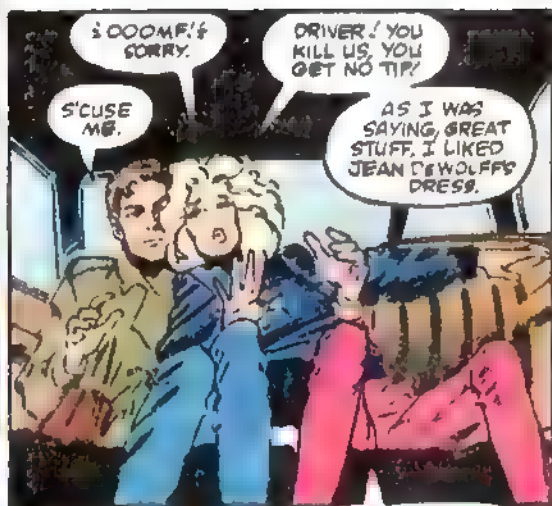
THE COPS PICKED UP TWO SUSPECTS IN THE GANG SHOOTOUT LAST NIGHT. I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE PRELIMINARY HEARING, UNFORTUNATELY WITHOUT A PHOTOGRAPHER.



UNTIL I LUCKED ON YOU, THAT IS.

ROBBIE SHOWED ME THE SHOTS YOU LEFT THIS MORN'G. GREAT PERSPECTIVE STUFF. . . WHAT WERE YOU, FIVE STORIES UP?

HEY! THE STREET'S ONE WAY!

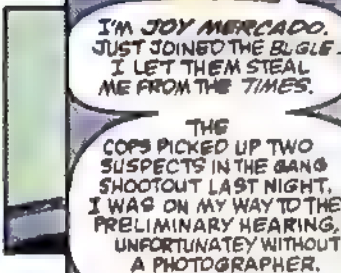


I DOOMF! S' SORRY.

S'CUSE ME.

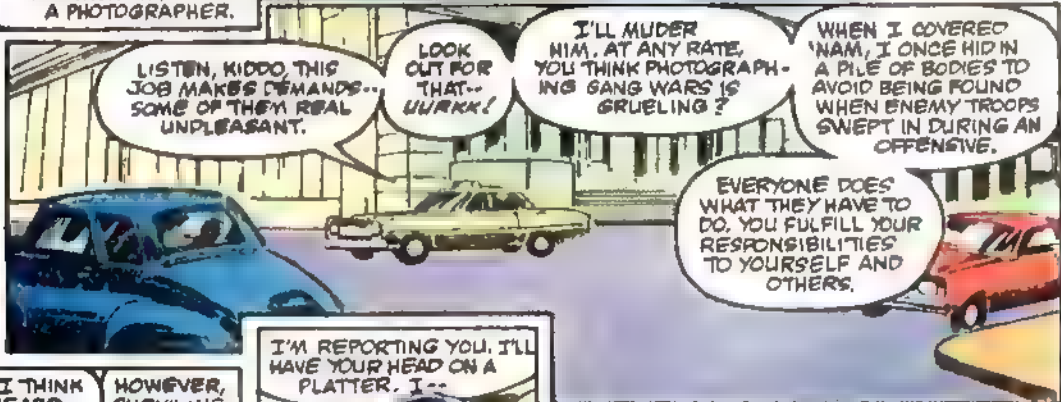
DRIVER! YOU KILL US, YOU GET NO TIP!

AS I WAS SAYING, GREAT STUFF. I LIKED JEAN DE WOLFF'S DRESS.



IT'S A SHAME YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP FIVE MINUTES EARLIER YOU'D HAVE GOTTEN SOME GREAT ACTION SHOTS.

YOU MEAN PEOPLE GETTING MASSACRED? I SHOULD BE SORRY I MISSED THAT? FRANKLY, JOY, I'M NOT WILD ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE.



LISTEN, KIDDO, THIS JOB MAKES DEMANDS... SOME OF THEM REAL UNPLEASANT.

LOOK OUT FOR THAT-- MUHKK!

I'LL MUDER HIM. AT ANY RATE, YOU THINK PHOTOGRAPHING GANG WARS IS GRUELING?

WHEN I COVERED 'NAM, I ONCE HID IN A PILE OF BODIES TO AVOID BEING FOUND WHEN ENEMY TROOPS SWEEPED IN DURING AN OFFENSIVE.

EVERYONE DOES WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO. YOU FULFILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS.



YEAH, I THINK I'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE.

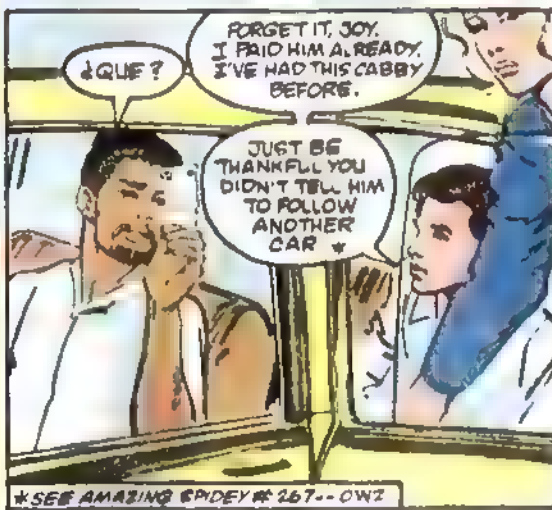
HOWEVER, SURVIVING WARS WAS NOTHING NEXT TO SURVIVING THIS CAB RIDE.

YOU! YEAH, YOU! I KEPT TELLING YOU TO SLOW DOWN, TO BE CAREFUL.

YOU ALMOST GOT US KILLED!



I'M REPORTING YOU. I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD ON A PLATTER. I--



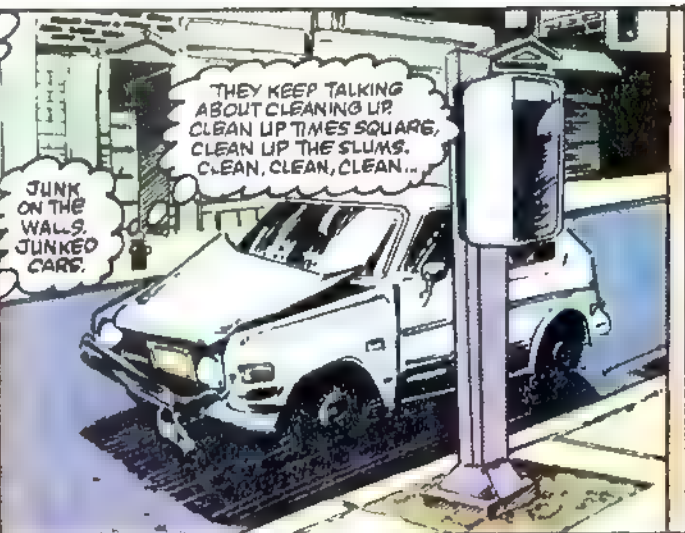
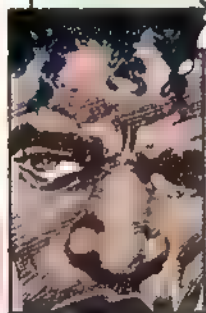
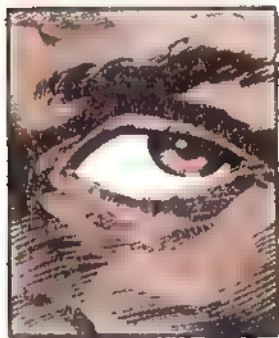
QUE?

FORGET IT, JOY. I TOLD HIM A READY. I'VE HAD THIS CABBY BEFORE.

JUST BE THANKFUL YOU DIDN'T TELL HIM TO FOLLOW ANOTHER CAR.

*SEE AMAZING SPIDEY# 267--OWZ

MEANTIME, ACROSS TOWN



SHOOT, LOOK AT ALL THIS JUNK.

THEY KEEP TALKING ABOUT CLEANING UP. CLEAN UP TIMES SQUARE. CLEAN UP THE SLUMS. CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN...

JUNK ON THE WALLS. JUNKED CARS.



SHOOT, THE DAY THEY CLEAN ALL THIS JUNK UP...



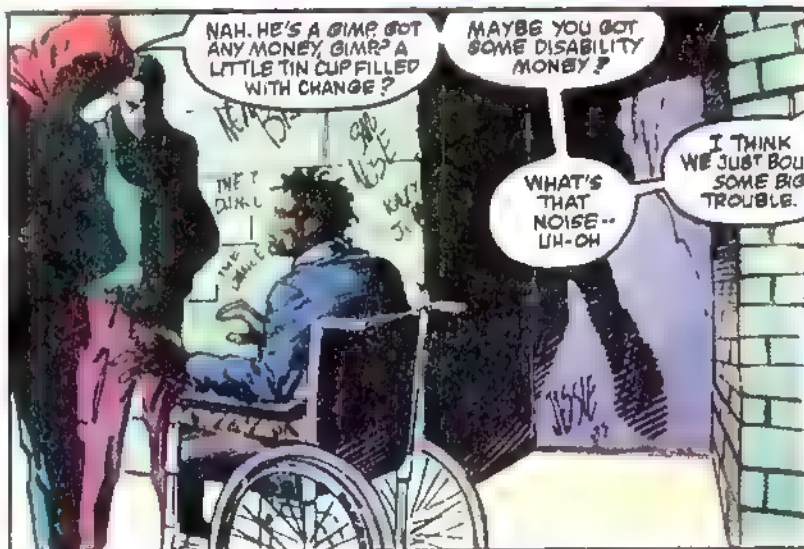
IS THE DAY I ENTER THE BOSTON MARATHON.



HEY! IT'S A GIMP



YOU SURE? AIN'T GOT NO LEGS. MAYBE HE'S ONE O' THEM MUPPETS



NAH, HE'S A GIMP GOT ANY MONEY, GIMP? A LITTLE TIN CUP FILLED WITH CHANGE?

MAYBE YOU GOT SOME DISABILITY MONEY?

WHAT'S THAT NOISE-- UH-OH

I THINK WE JUST BOUGHT SOME BIG TROUBLE.



UH, HI, ACE.
THIS GUY, HE
A FRIEND
OF YOURS?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO
WORRY ABOUT ACE
BUTTIN' IN, PLUNKS.
ACE NEVER BUTTS
IN TO PRIVATE
BUSINESS.

HE USED
TO. I
TAUGHT HIM
BETTER.

"WANNA KNOW
WHY I'M A GIMP?
ARMY GOT ME WHEN I
WAS YOUNG AND IMPRES-
SIONABLE. TAUGHT ME IT
WAS OKAY TO MIX IN PRI-
VATE FIGHTS, IF YOU WERE
RIGHTOUS ENOUGH.

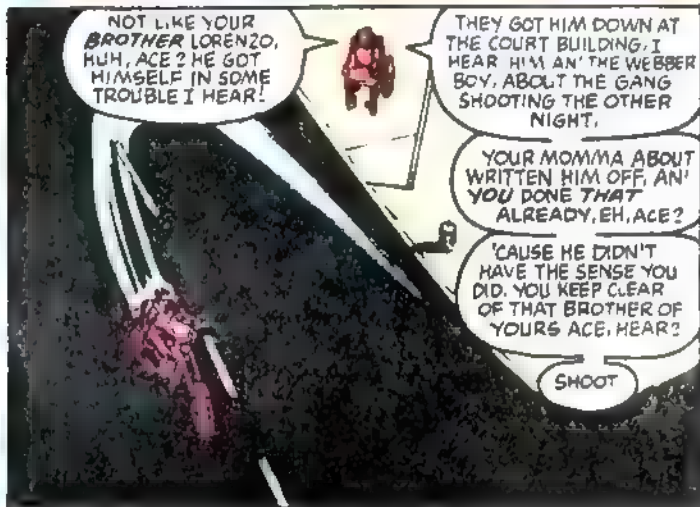
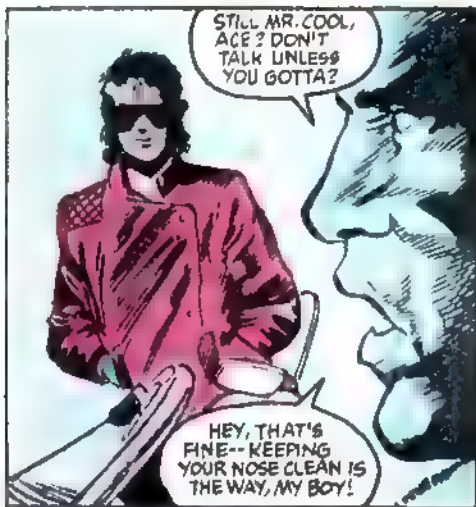
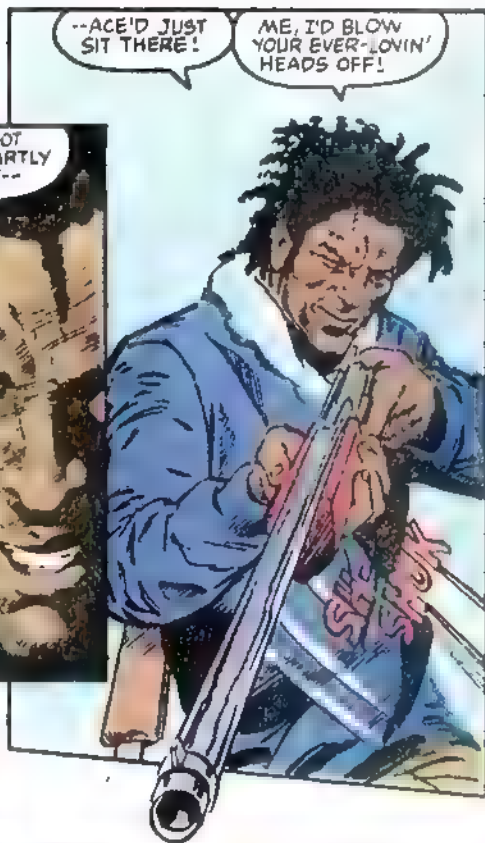
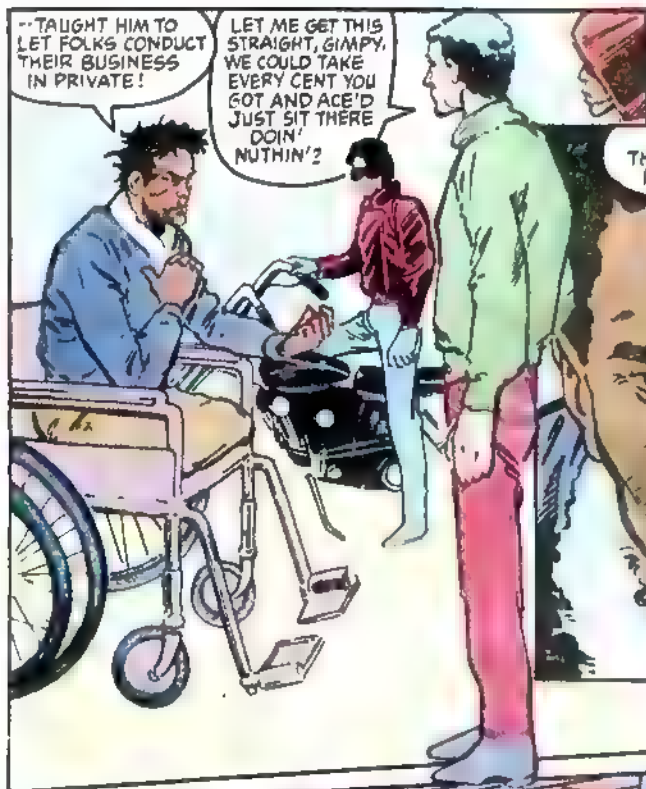
SENT ME TO 'NAM AFTER
THAT, WHERE THE VC
RELIEVED ME OF THAT
NOTION, AND MY LEGS

SO WHEN
I GOT BACK,
I FOUND ACE WHEN
HE WAS YOUNG AND
IMPRESSONABLE.

"I LAY THERE FOR
ALMOST TWO DAYS
WAITING FOR HELP
BREATHING DEATH.

AND
I TAUGHT HIM
DIFFERENT THAN
I WAS TAUGHT.

AND AT
LEAST HE'S
STILL WALKIN'
AROUND.



-- ACROSS THE HALL --

ARE YOU SURE DIFEQ'S DEAD? MAYBE HE'S A HEAVY SLEEPER.

OK YEAH, THE AUTOSY WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE ROUSED HIM. NUTS! I'LL GET BACK TO YOU

WHAT'S UP, JEANNIE? CONTRACTIONS?

IF ONLY THE PAIN WERE THAT SIMPLE. CAN YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT ABOUT SOMETHING, JOY?

DIFEQ UPPED AND CROAKED ON ME. NEVER CAME OUT OF HIS COMA. WHICH LEAVES MY CASE IN THE TOILET, UNLESS I GET HIM ADMITTED AS DEATHBED TESTIMONY.

SMILE. WHAT'S DEATHBED TESTIMONY?

IT GOES BACK TO HEARSAY. DIFEQ CAN'T TESTIFY IN COURT NOW-- THEREFORE, ANYTHING HE SAID BEFORE IS HEARSAY, AND USUALLY INADMISSIBLE. BUT THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS...

LIKE DEATHBED TESTIMONY. LET'S SAY JOY HERE STABBED YOU AND YOU BELIEVED YOU WERE DYING. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT, IF YOU FINGERED JOY, YOU'D BE TELLING THE TRUTH BECAUSE A DYING MAN HAS NO REASON TO LIE.

SO THAT LEAVES RES GESTAE.

THE PROBLEM IS, ACCORDING TO DE WOLFF, MY LATE WITNESS THOUGHT HE'D MAKE IT. A FACT THE DEFENSE WILL BRING TO LIGHT. THAT LETS OUT DEATHBED.

IF I WERE DYING, I'D FINGER JONAH.

AND THAT IS...?

WELL, LET'S SAY I SHOT YOU, AND YOUR FRIEND HERE SAW IT. AND HE BLURTS OUT TO THE PEOPLE ARRIVING ON THE SCENE, "GOOD HEAVENS, THE A.A.A. SHOT JOY MERCADO."

IT'S TESTIMONY IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT. IT MEANS THAT NO ONE INTERROGATED DIFEQ OR ASKED WHAT HAPPENED?

OHMM NO.

MINUTES LATER, OUTSIDE THE COURTHOUSE...

... AND SHE WAS SO FRIENDLY. I JUST DIDN'T SEE THE PLAINCLOTHES COP WITH...

EARTH TO JOY. EARTH TO JOY.



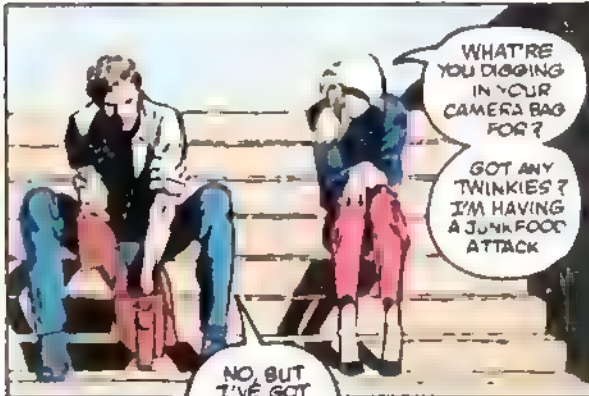
SORRY PETER. SHE WAS AN OLD FRIEND AND SOURCE OF MINE. I WAS JUST WISHING THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP HER.

IF ONLY THERE WERE OTHER WITNESSES TO DRAW ON.



WHAT'RE YOU DIGGING IN YOUR CAMERA BAG FOR?

GOT ANY TWINKIES? I'M HAVING A JUNKFOOD ATTACK.



NO, BUT I'VE GOT THIS HE WAS AT THE SCENE OF THE SHOOTING.



HOLY...

THIS IS ACE. NOW WE'RE COOKING.

C'MON. I'LL PHONE IN THE TRIAL TO RE-WRITE AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO FIND ACE.

YOU'RE NUTS. WHY NOT TELL THE POLICE?



AND IF I BEAT THE COPS TO THE PUNCH, I GET MORE READERS.

BECAUSE I'M NOT A COP. I'M A REPORTER. COPS GET CRIMINALS, I GET READERS.

OKAY. OKAY. BUT WHO THE HECK IS ACE, ANYWAY?





HUH? HE'S A REAL MYSTERY MAN. FOUNDED THE REAPERS, I THINK... THEN GOT OUT OF IT FOR SOME REASON.

I HEAR HE PIMPS OR RUNS DRUGS OR SOMETHING.



TRAMPS? DRUGS? MAN, ACE WOULDN'T TOUCH THAT STUFF. HE'S GOT STYLE.

NO ONE CAN FIGURE HIM OUT. BUT EVERYONE RESPECTS HIM 'SPECIALLY THE GANGS.

YOU BETTER RESPECT HIM



I SEEN HIM FIGHT ONCE FIVE GUYS, NEVER TOUCHED HIM

HE MOVES LIKE HE KNOWS WHAT'S COMING-- HE TAKES HIS TIME AND THE OTHERS LOOK LIKE THEY MOVE IN SLOW MOTION.

HE'S DEADLY I LOVE THE GUY

AND EVENTUALLY, AT A RUNDOWN PLAYGROUND...

I FIRST HEARD ABOUT ACE WHEN I WAS DOING A SERIES ON MODERN MYTHS. I SAW HIM FROM A DISTANCE ONCE OR TWICE, BUT NEVER GOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO TALK WITH HIM.

DON'T KNOW WHY I WAS HOPING FOR BETTER LUCK THIS TIME

JOY, IT'S GETTING LATE. MAYBE WE'D BETTER CALL IT A...

DAY?

UH OH. MY SPIDER-SENSE IS GOING NUTS.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.

LOOKING FOR ACE, HUH? ACE AND US, WE DON'T LIKE OUTSIDERS.

SO WE'RE ASKING YOU TO LEAVE. FAST.

ALL RIGHT.

NOT THAT FAST...!

THEY'RE NOT WATCHING ME AT ALL. THEIR MISTAKE.

THIS MONKEY BAR SHOULD HELP ME SO I DON'T HAVE TO REVEAL MY SPIDER-STRENGTH.

YOU WANNA BE A HERO, PUNK?
OKAY! I'M GONNA RIP YOU,
PUNK. I'M GONNA TAKE YOUR
PRETTY FACE AND STUFF IT
UPSIDE YOUR--



GIVE
ME A
BREAK.

OOOOF!



HE'LL NEVER KNOW I
BARELY TAPPED HIM...
OR THAT HE'D BE
WORSE OFF IF I'D
JUST SLUGGED
HIM.

PETER,
FOR
HEAVEN'S
SAKE, I
CAN TAKE
CARE OF
MYSELF!



ON SECOND
THOUGHT..

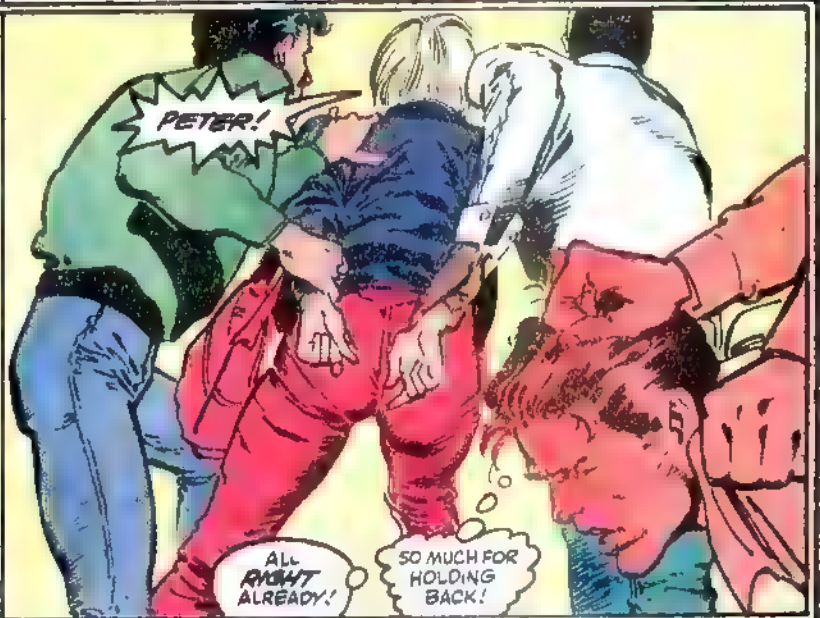
PETER!
GET OVER
HERE, PLEASE!



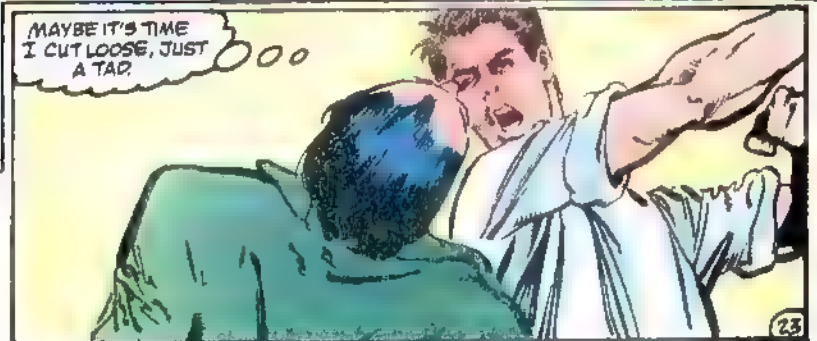
PETER!

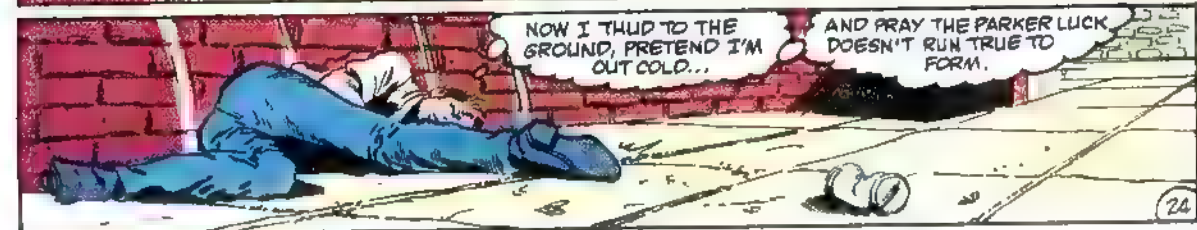
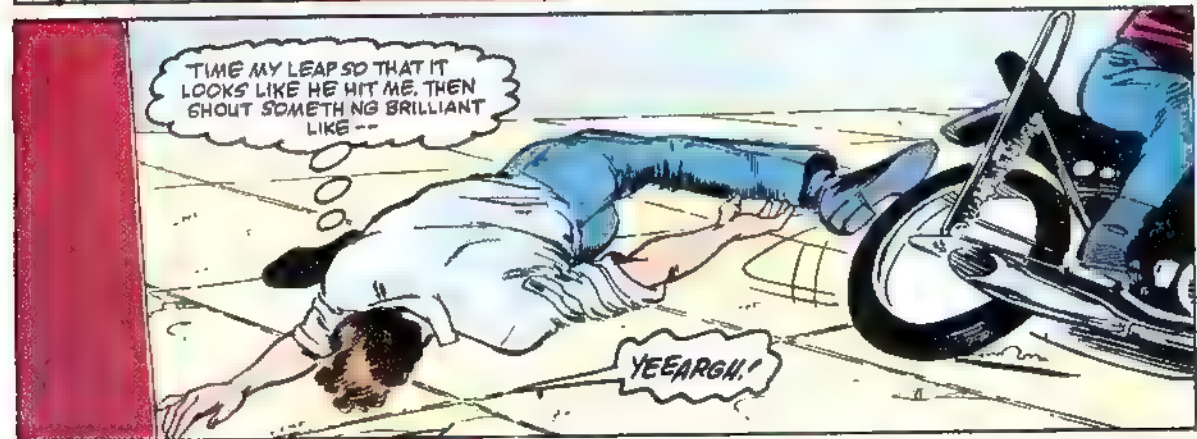
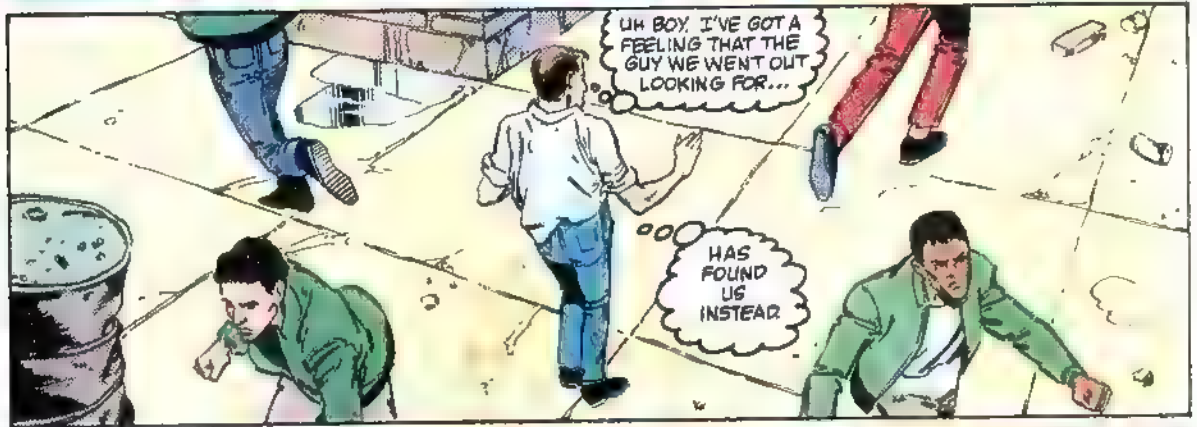
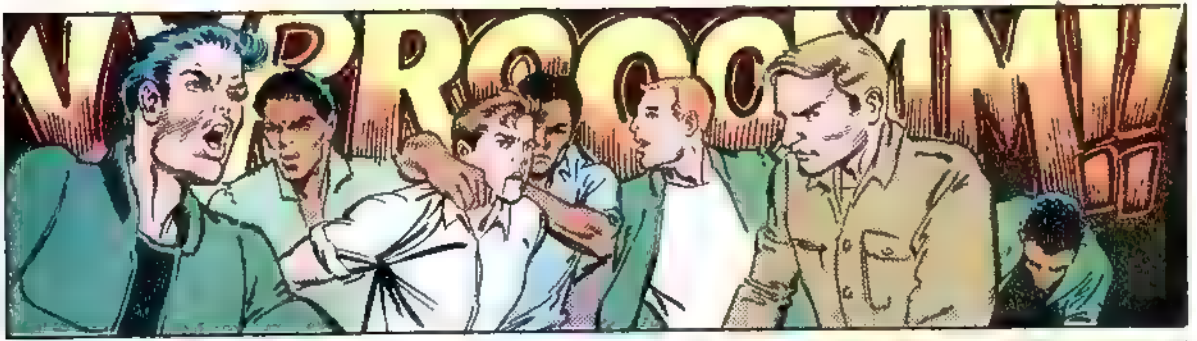
ALL
RIGHT
ALREADY!

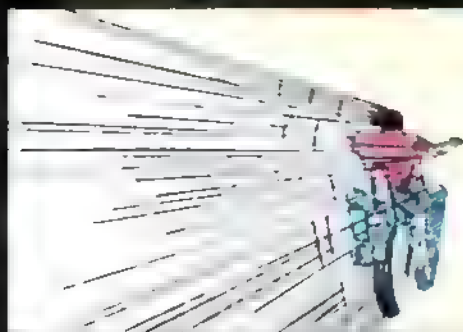
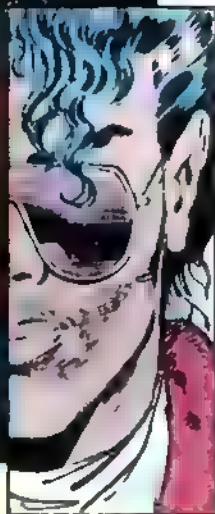
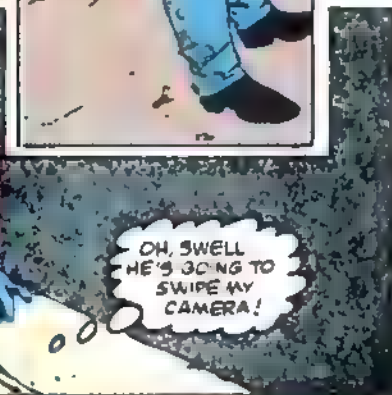
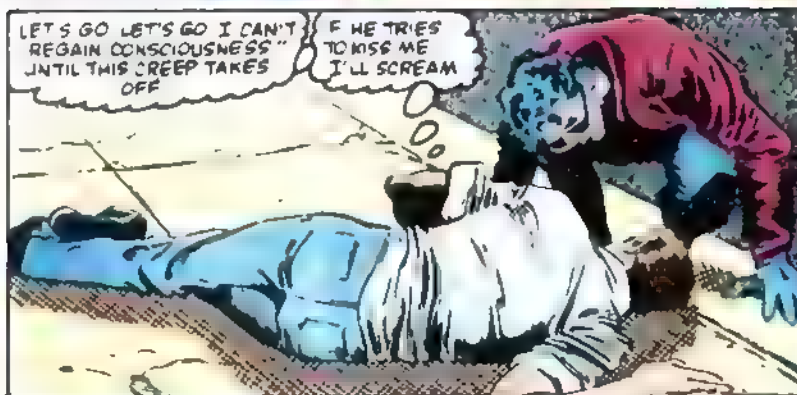
SO MUCH FOR
HOLDING
BACK!

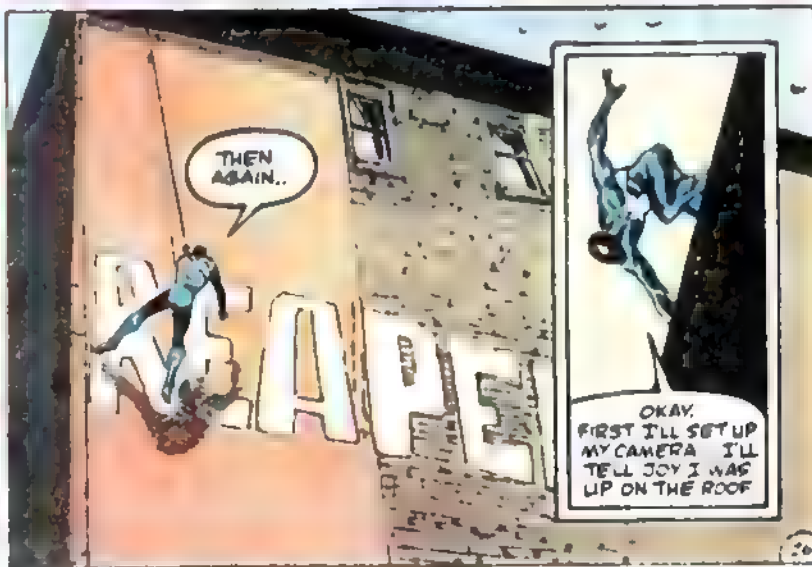
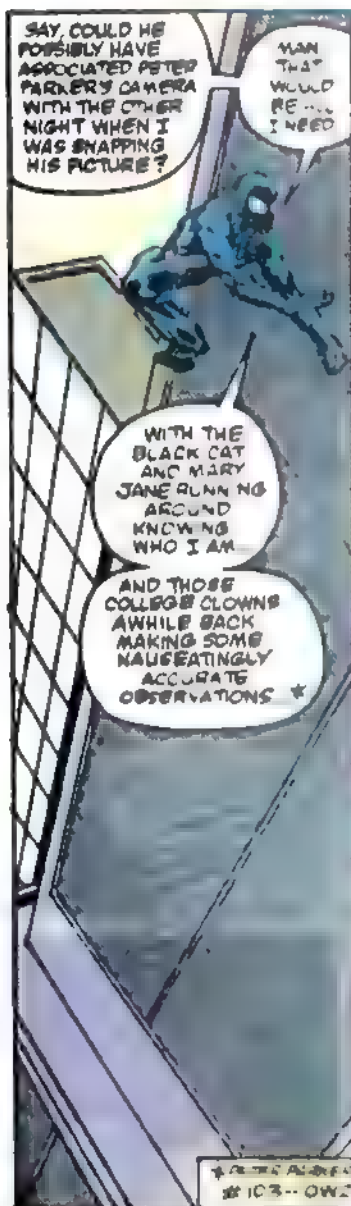


MAYBE IT'S TIME
I CUT LOOSE, JUST
A TAD.









MOMENTS
LATER...

NOW ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS GET JOY OUT AND
KEEP TROUBLE TO A
MINIMUM AND CON-
VINCE ACE THAT HE
SHOULD COME
CLEAN ABOUT
THE SHOOTING.



YEAH,
THAT'S
ALL.

JEAN DE WOLFF MUST NOT
HAVE REALIZED THAT ACE
WAS THERE ALL THAT
TIME. HECK, MAYBE
HE WASN'T



MAYBE
THIS IS ALL
A WLD
GOOSE
CHASE.

HEY! MY
SPIDER SENSE
IS PICKING UP
A LOT MORE
THAN MY
TRACER.

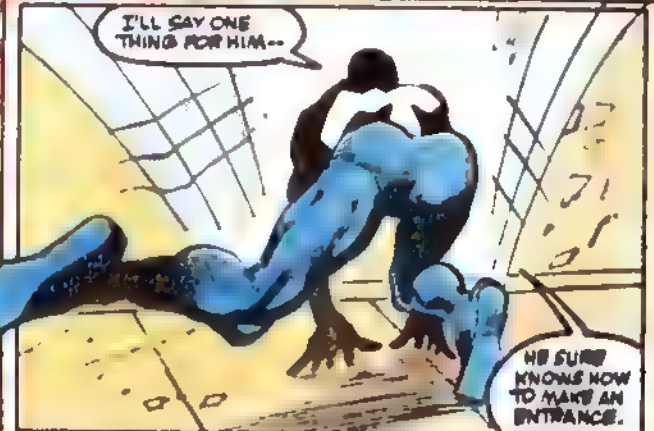
**WROOON
KRASH**



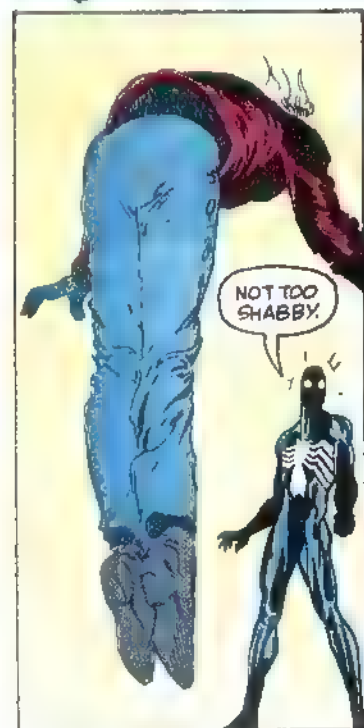
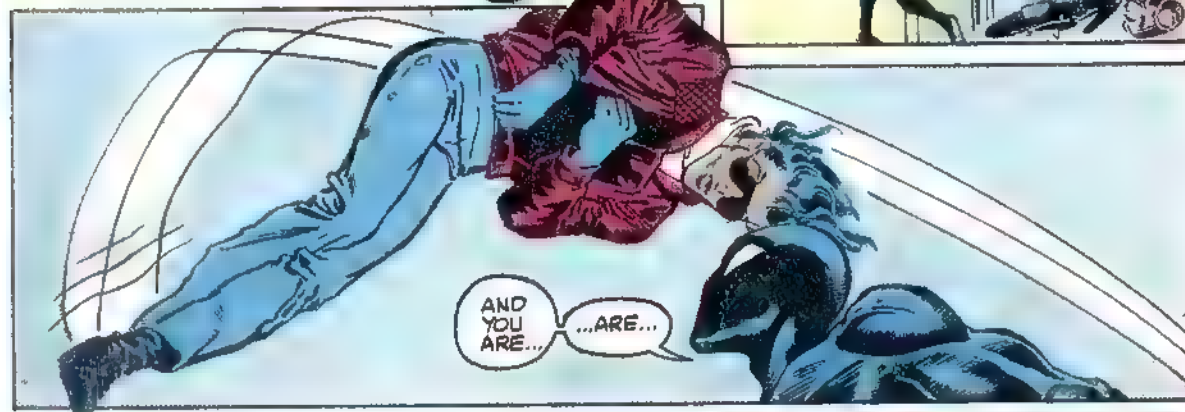
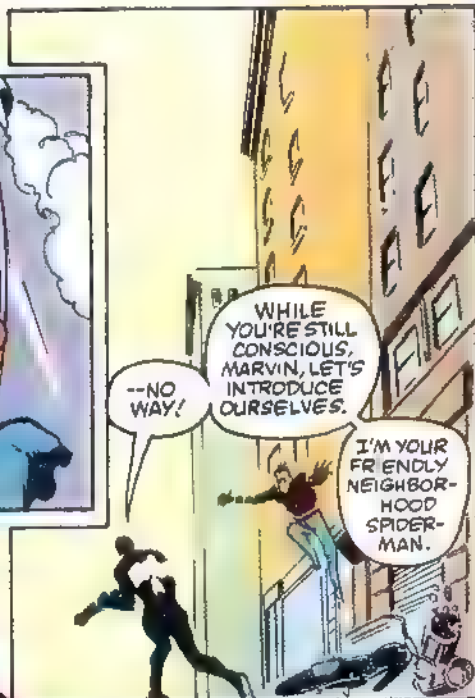
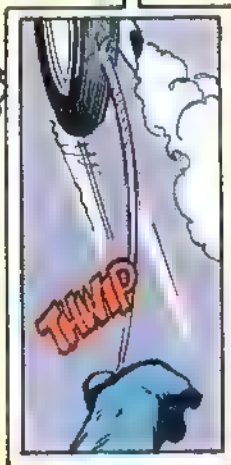
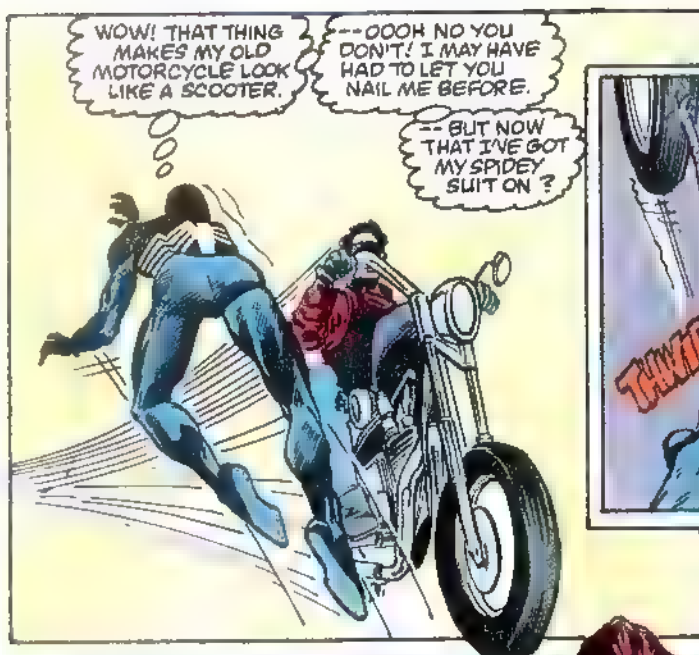
AW
NO!

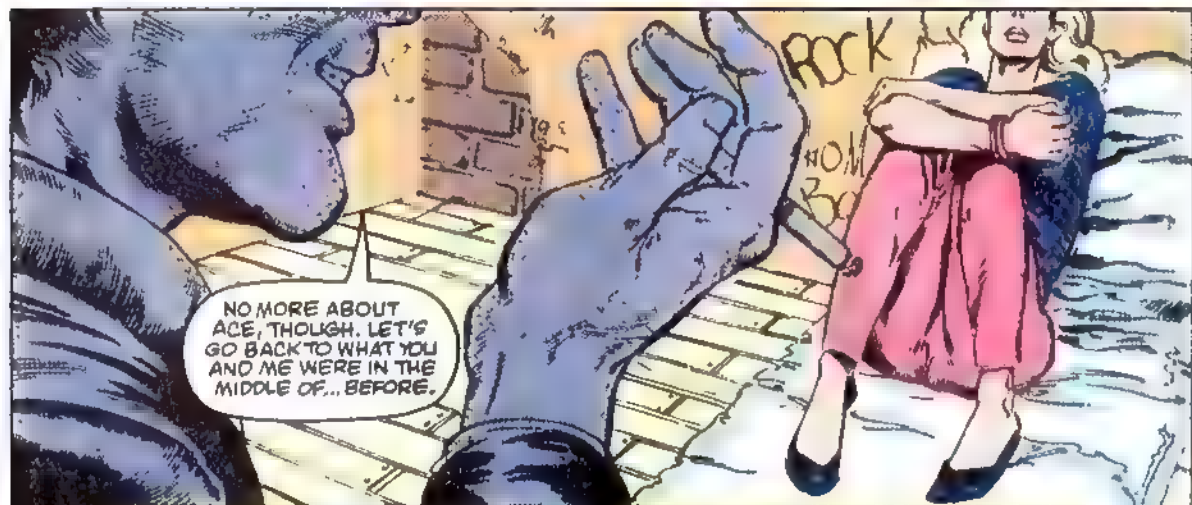
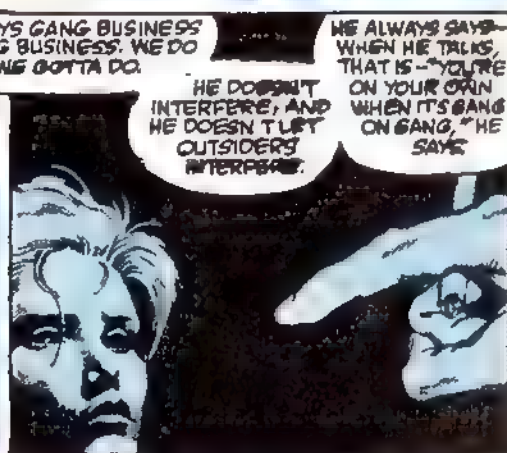
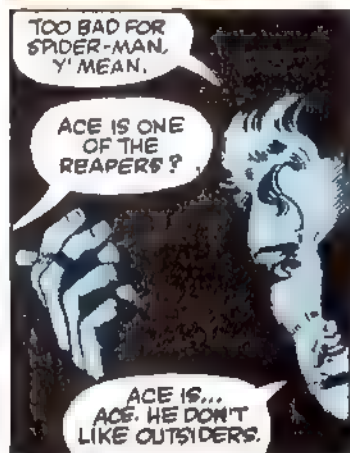
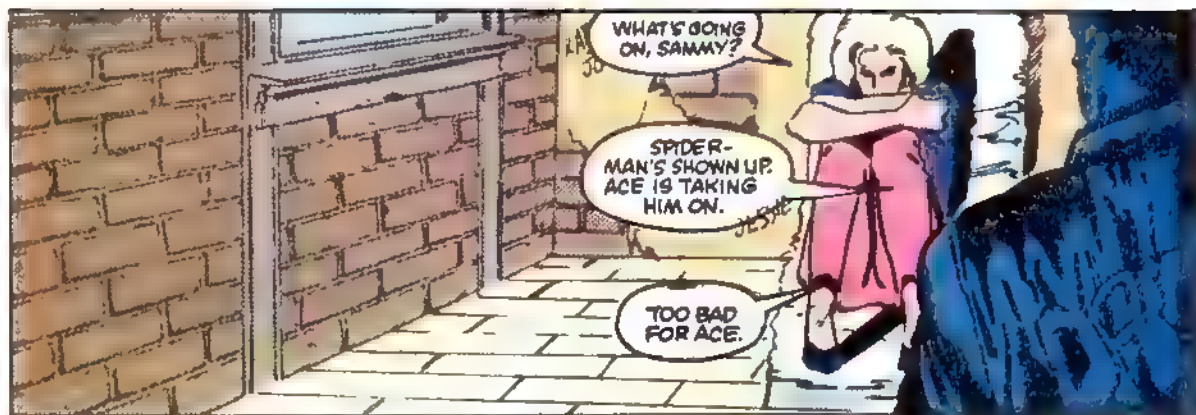


I'LL SAY ONE
THING FOR HIM--



HE SURE
KNOWS HOW
TO MAKE AN
ENTRANCE.





WATCH IT, ACE, THIS GUY'S SAAD!

HE SHOOTS SILK ROPE AND WEARS BLACK TIGHTS!

S'MATTER, TIGHTS? 'FRARD TO GO MAN-TO-MAN. IF YOU'RE A MAN...

THIS IS RIDICULOUS. BAD ENOUGH THE PUBLIC HATES MY GUTS...

NOW I CAN'T EVEN GET RESPECT FROM GANGS.

OKAY, ACE. YOUR FRIENDS WANT IT DOWN AND DIRTY, LET'S DO IT!

SONUVA... HE DODGED ME AGAIN. HE'S FAST, I'LL GIVE HIM THAT.

LET'S SEE IF I CAN GIVE HIM SOMETHING ELSE... LIKE A FEW LESS TEETH.

THE NEXT MOMENTS ARE A SHADOWBOX. NOT A BLOW IS LANDED AS THE GANG HOOTS LOUDER.

AND SPIDER-MAN COMES TO REALIZE HE'S SEEING MORE THAN REFLEXES. HE'S SEEING...

INSANITY! I WASN'T IMAGINING IT

HE'S DODGING BEFORE I SWING. AS IF HE KNOWS WHAT'S COMING.

OKAY... LET'S DRAW HIM IN CLOSE.

WHOOSH

WHOOPS... TOO CLOSE. BARELY HAD TIME TO ROLL WITH THAT ONE, MAN! I'M NOT USED TO GETTING TAGGED!

BRASS KNUCKLES, SILENT SAM? THAT'S STRICTLY AMATEUR NIGHT.

AND ONE
THING
YOU'RE
GONNA
LEARN
RIGHT
NOW.

WHEN YOU GO
THREE ROUNDS
WITH ME...

BE PRE-
PARED TO
MOVE UP TO
THE PROS.

THAT'S
IT, JUMP IN
ANTICIPATION,
LIKE I KNEW
YOU WOULD.

NOW
DUCK...
GOOD!

NOW...
WHILE
YOU'RE IN
MID-AIR,
OFF-
BALANCE...

TOUGH LUCK,
ACE. NOW YOU'LL
SEE WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU FIGHT IN
THE BIG L--

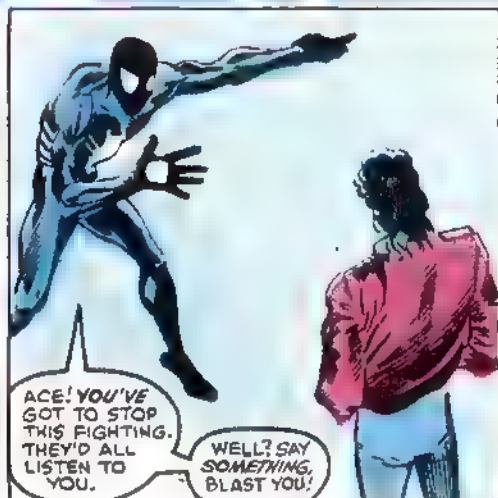
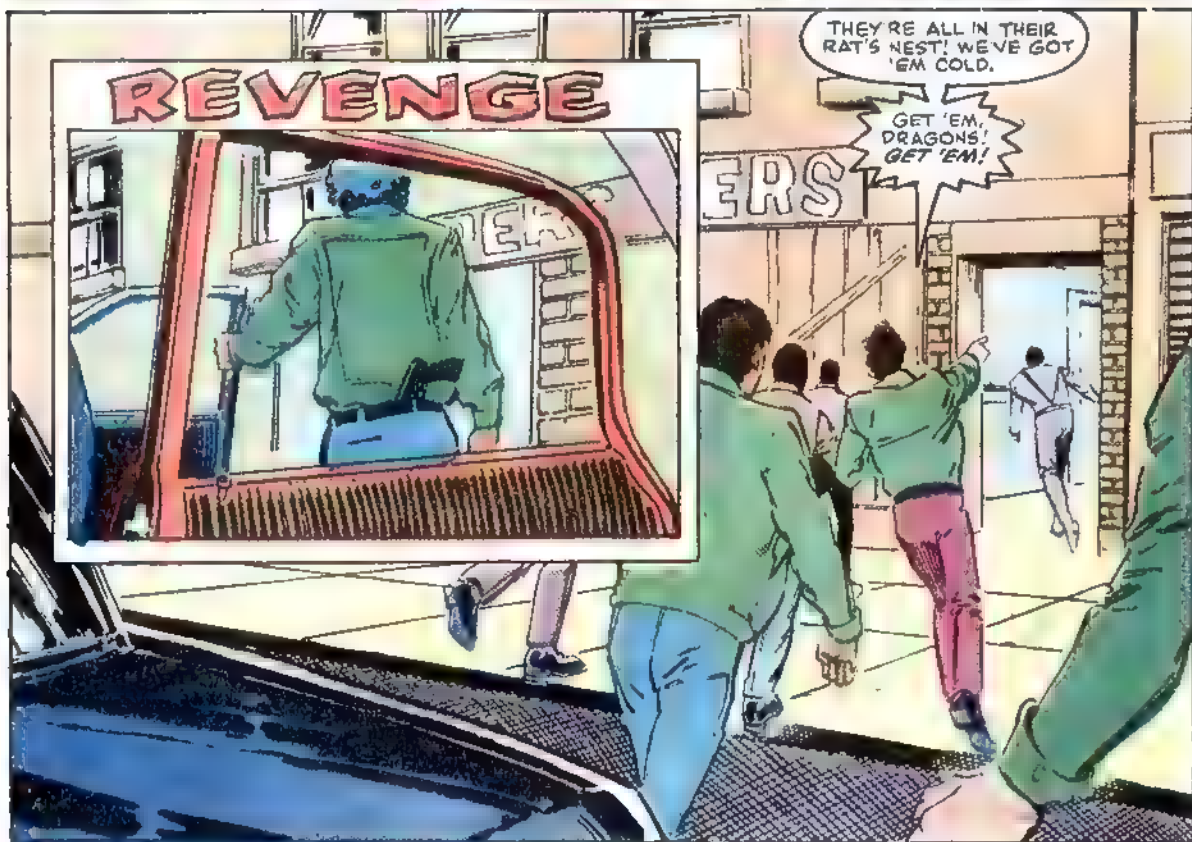
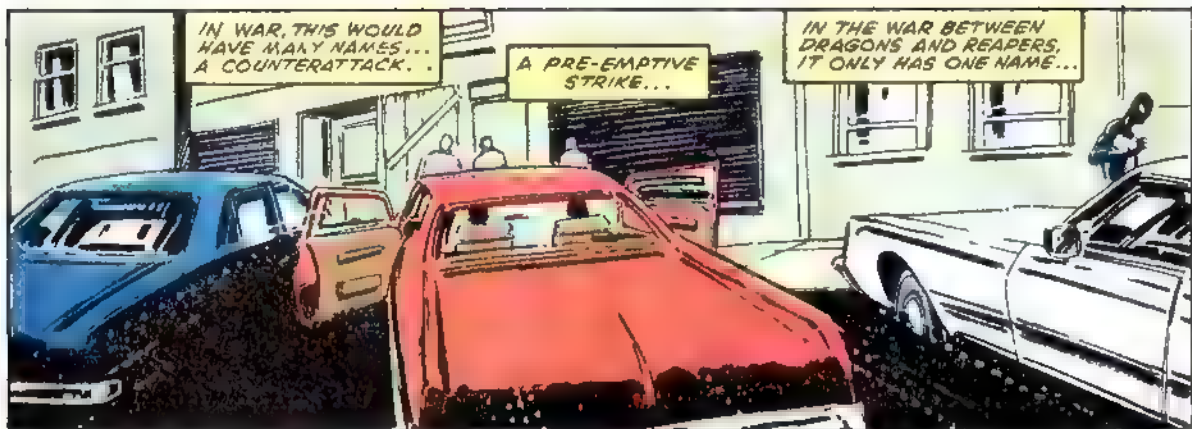
MY SPIDER-
SENSE... NO!
AARGH!

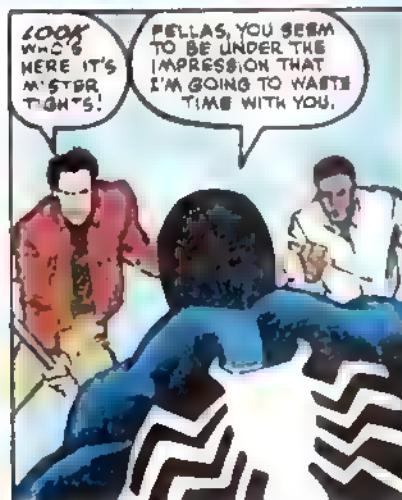
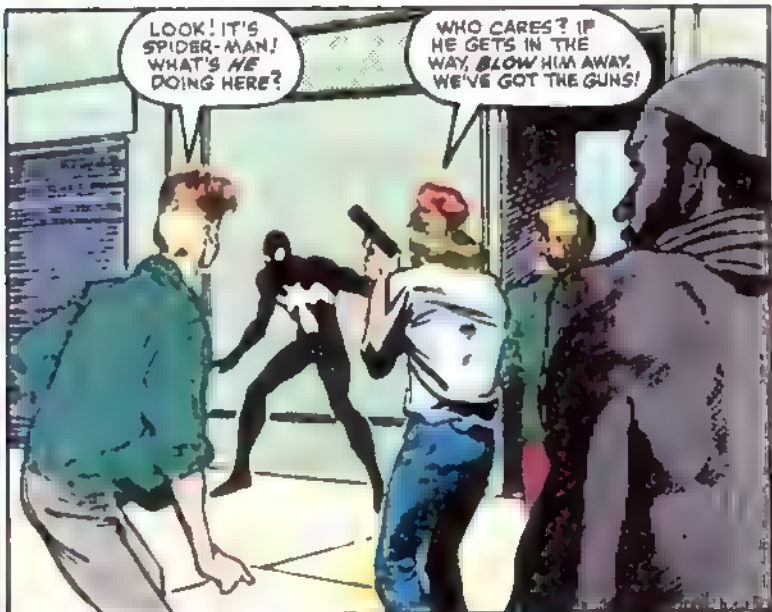
HE CUT
ME. HOW?
NOW!

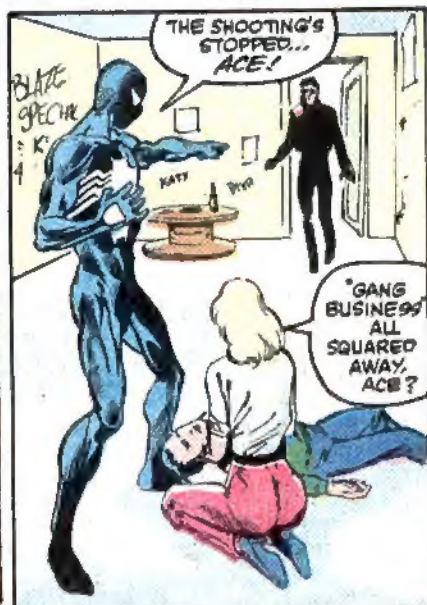
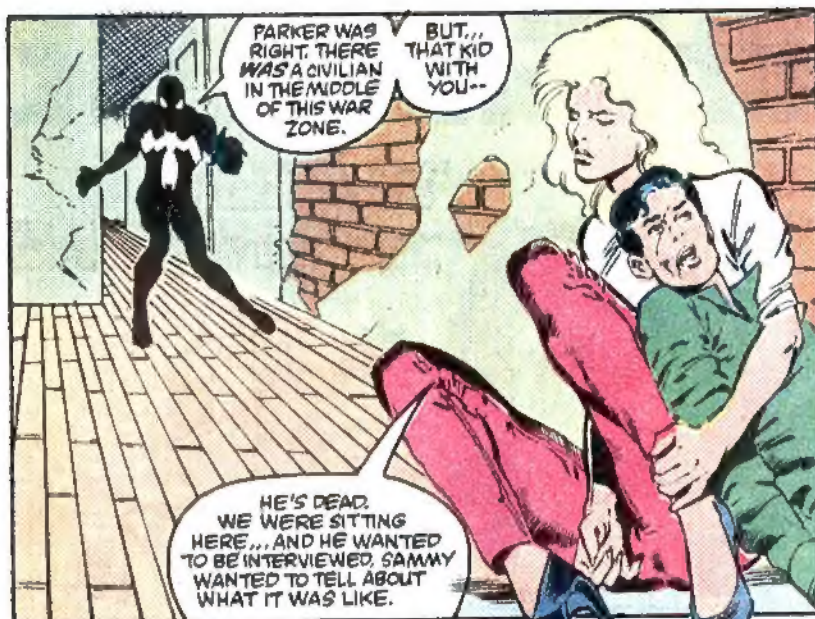
IT HAPPENED
SO FAST, AS
IF JUST BEING
NEAR HIM
SHORTED
OUT MY OWN
SPIDER-SENSE.

NO KNIFE-
WELDING
JERK SPILLS
MY RADIO-
ACTIVE BLOOD
AND GETS
AWAY WITH
IT. THIS
JERK IS DEAD--

MEAT?









"WHO HAS TO DIE, ACE? INSTEAD OF THIS POOR KID, WHAT IF IT WERE SOMEONE YOU WERE REALLY CLOSE TO? PICTURE THAT--"



"OR MAYBE IT COULD BE A GIRL YOU LOVE, HUH? PICTURE THE LIGHT OF YOUR LIFE BEING SNUFFED."



"NOT A PRETTY PICTURE, HUH, ACE?"



"NO, NOT A PRETTY PICTURE AT ALL."



BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO CARE, DO YOU? NOT THE HOTSHOT ACE. NOT--



UNNNHH

HE DID IT AGAIN! I BARELY HAD TIME TO REACT!



YOU LET HIM HIT YOU, DIDN'T YOU--? JUST TO HELP HIM LET OFF STEAM.

WHAT-EVER YOU SAY.



DO YOU THINK ANY OF IT PENETRATED?



NO.

CYNICAL.

REPORTERS GET THAT WAY. I'M STILL LOOKING FOR THE RAPSHEET ON MOTHER TERESA.

OH, IGNORE ME. I'M JUST DEPRESSED.

"BECAUSE IT LOOKS TO ME
THAT ACE IS JUST ANOTHER
IN A LINE OF MODERN DAY
MYTHS--

"WITH FEET
OF CLAY."

RYKER'S ISLAND--FACILITY FOR
CONVICTED CRIMINALS...AND FOR
THOSE WHO CAN'T MAKE BAIL,
AND ARE AWAITING TRIAL.
PEOPLE LIKE THE REAPER
NAMED LORENZO SPENCER.

ACE: MAN, THEY
SAID I HADA VISITOR,
I DIDN'T THINK IT'D
BE YOU!

YOU SHOULD'A
BEEN THERE IN
COURT. I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND HALF
OF WHAT THE
JUDGE WAS SAY-
ING, BUT YOU
COULD TELL HE
WAS TEED OFF
WITH THE DA.

THE DEUCE N' QUARTER
GRAND IS A BUMMER, BUT
ME AND AL WILL SURVIVE
IT. WE REAPERS, OUR
REP IS EVEN IN HERE.
WE'RE --

SAMMY'S
DEAD.

